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REPORT

CD NO.

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COUNTRY USSR  
SUBJECT Economic - Agriculture, progress report  
HOW PUBLISHED Daily newspaper  
WHERE PUBLISHED Baku  
DATE PUBLISHED 24 Sep 1952  
LANGUAGE Russian

DATE OF INFORMATION 1952

DATE DIST. 2 JAN 1953

NO. OF PAGES 2

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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SOURCE Bakinskiy Rabochiy.

REPUBLIC PARTY CONGRESS REVIEWS 1952  
AZERBAIDZHAN SSR AGRICULTURAL PROGRESS

The report on 23 September 1952 by M. D. Bagirov, Secretary, TsK KP(b) Azerbaydzhn SSR to the 18th Congress of the KP(b) Azerbaydzhn SSR contained the following information on the progress of agriculture in the republic:

The Mingechaurskiy Hydroelectric Network will provide cheap electric power for the entire economy of the republic and, together with the Kura-Araksinskiy Irrigation System, will permit additional hundreds of thousands of hectares to be sown to wheat and cotton on now arid land. This, in turn, will make possible the creation of a stable fodder base for collectivized animal husbandry. These programs are based on Stalin's proposals to the Council of Ministers USSR on 20 May 1950 entitled "Measures for Increasing the Production of Wheat and Cotton in Kolkhozes and Sovkhozes of Azerbaydzhn SSR."

The material and technical aid rendered agriculture by party and government as the result of this and other decisions made it possible to fulfill and exceed all basic agricultural tasks set for 1951 despite the unfavorable weather conditions of that year.

Adverse weather conditions persisted at the beginning of the current year. Steady rain, below normal temperatures, frosts up to the middle of May, and damage from hail and accompanying strong winds delayed the sprouting of early crops, particularly winter sowings, and postponed preparation and sowing of spring crops, particularly cotton. A considerable part of the total area planted to cotton has to be replanted, in some places as many as three times. Replanting of cotton was not completed until 20 June 1952. This in turn delayed field care of the cotton crop such as cultivation between rows, irrigation, and supplemental application of fertilizer. The rain and frost also seriously damaged mulberry and fruit tree plantings, particularly drupaceous fruit trees, and postponed the ripening of grains from 20 to 30 days. Thus the period taken to accomplish basic agricultural work such as haying, /silk/ worm feeding, grain harvesting, and sowing and working cotton was excessive. Kolkhoz labor forces, particularly in the cotton-growing rayons, were heavily overtaxed.

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Extensive state aid and full utilization of kolkhoz and sovkhos facilities made it possible to make up these deficits despite violations of the Kolkhoz Charter and struggles with lying kolkhoz workers and slackers. All tasks assigned by the party and government have been fulfilled with the exception of those for the cocoon and drupaceous fruit crops. The assigned cotton yield for this year will be met according to an estimate made by republic specialist on 15 September. However, every man on cotton kolkhozes and sovkhos, in rayon centers, MTS, and other rayon organizations must do his share to get the crop in and to meet state delivery requirements. The cotton crop is a good one. If state delivery norms for quality and quantity are fulfilled on time, the incomes of kolkhozes and kolkhoz workers will be considerably increased, and at the same time a valuable service will be rendered the state.

Preliminary data indicates fulfillment of the assigned grain yields for 1952 throughout the republic, and overfulfillment of the assigned wheat yield. The 1952 grain-delivery plan has been considerably exceeded, and deliveries to the state already total over twice those of 1950. However, neither the rich 1952 grain crop, nor the overfulfillment of this year's grain delivery plan can serve as a source of self-satisfaction until the fall sowing plan is complete. Next year half again as much grain must be delivered to the state as in 1952. Thus the fall sowing campaign must be carried out in the shortest possible time and observing the best agronomic practices. The 1952 plan for delivery of tea was exceeded by 20 September, when over twice as much had been delivered to the state as in 1950.

Some improvement in the condition of collectivized animal husbandry has been registered in the period covered by this report. Livestock herds have increased and animal productivity milk yield, wool clip, and stock weights has gone up. Successful progress in procurement of animal products should be noted. The 1952 plan for wool deliveries has been exceeded, and almost twice as much wool has been delivered as in 1950. The 1952 plan for delivery of brynza (cheese) has been exceeded. As of 20 September, the 1952 plan for delivery of meat was fulfilled 90.7 percent, or 5,986.3 metric tons more than by the same date in 1951; corresponding figures for milk were 93.8 percent, or 6,542 metric tons. Much work in fodder procurement has been accomplished this year. As of 20 September 1952, hay had been cut on 530,000 hectares, which was 173.3 percent of plan or 229,500 hectares more than last year; 383,600 metric tons of silage had been put in, which was 121.7 percent of plan or 164,200 metric tons more than last year; 2,413,800 metric tons of coarse fodder had been procured, which was 107.3 percent of plan or 1,025,600 metric tons more than last year. The plan for hay procurement has also been exceeded.

However, shortcomings still exist. There are violations of the Kolkhoz Charter, training of mass kolkhoz cadres is poorly organized, mechanization personnel are poorly qualified and do not adequately utilize the very considerable amount of machinery available for kolkhoz work, and kolkhoz leaders are often people who do not command respect. The work of trading and procurement organizations is proceeding in an extremely unsatisfactory manner. Medical facilities available to kolkhoz workers are wholly inadequate. Party work in many kolkhozes has degenerated to a very low level since the consolidation drive. An end must be put to these shortcomings.

During the period here reported, the standard of living of kolkhoz workers has increased together with kolkhoz incomes. In 1952, kolkhoz income from wool alone totaled 70 million rubles, while in 1950 kolkhozes earned only 85 million rubles altogether from animal husbandry.

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